UNITED
NATIONS

Convention to Combat
Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1
22 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS FIRST SESSION, HELD IN ROME FROM 29 SEPTEMBER TO 10 OCTOBER 1997

Addendum

PART TWO: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS FIRST SESSION

CONTENTS

Page

I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Decision

1/COP.1	Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties	4
2/COP.1	Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties	23
3/COP.1	Designation of a Convention Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements	28
4/COP.1	Interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and for the Secretariat of the Convention	30
5/COP.1	Physical location of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention	31
6/COP.1	Budget and programme of the Convention for 1999	33
7/COP.1	The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund of the Convention	36

GE.97-65547

8/COP.1	Extrabudgetary funding for 1998	37
9/COP.1	Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties	38
10/COP.1	Review of the implementation of the Convention	40
11/COP.1	Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation	41
12/COP.1	Regional Implementation Annexes	47
13/COP.1	Collaboration with other conventions	48
14/COP.1	Relations with the Global Environment Facility	49
15/COP.1	Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology	50
16/COP.1	Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology	55
17/COP.1	Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels	56
18/COP.1	Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts	58
19/COP.1	Roster of independent experts	60
20/COP.1	Traditional knowledge	61
21/COP.1	Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology	62
22/COP.1	Benchmarks and indicators	63
23/COP.1	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies	64
24/COP.1	Organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities	67
25/COP.1	Collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism	75
26/COP.1	Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations	81

27/COP.1 Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties 95

28/COP.1 Date and venue of the second session of the Conference of the Parties 97

29/COP.1 Credentials of the Parties 98

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Resolution

1/COP.1 Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Italy 100

2/COP.1 Expression of appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 100

I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Decision 1/COP.1

Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 3, which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, its own rules of procedure,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties,

Decides to adopt the rules of procedure attached, with the exception of the phrase "in the regions referred to in the implementation annexes of the Convention" in paragraph 1 of rule 22, the phrase "in the regions referred to in the implementation annexes of the Convention" in rule 31, as well as paragraph 1 of rule 47,

Further decides to consider the matter at the second Conference of the Parties.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION 6

II. SESSIONS 7

III. OBSERVERS 8

IV. AGENDA 8

V. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS 10

VI. OFFICERS 11

VII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES 13

VIII. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT 14

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS 15

X. VOTING 17

XI. ELECTIONS 20

XII. LANGUAGES AND SOUND RECORDS 21

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE 22

XIV. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION 22

XV. MISCELLANEOUS 22

I. INTRODUCTION

Scope

Rule 1

The present rules of procedure shall apply to any session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention convened in accordance with article 22 of the Convention.

Definitions

Rule 2

For the purposes of the present rules:

(a) "Convention" means the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, adopted at Paris, on 17 June 1994;

(b) "Parties" means Parties to the Convention;

(c) "Conference of the Parties" means the Conference of the Parties established by article 22 of the Convention;

(d) "Session" means any ordinary or extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties convened in accordance with article 22 of the Convention;

(e) "Regional economic integration organization" means an organization defined in article 1, paragraph (j) of the Convention;

(f) "President" means the President of the Conference of the Parties elected in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1;

(g) "Permanent Secretariat" means the Permanent Secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 3 of the Convention;

(h) "Subsidiary body" means those bodies established pursuant to article 24 of the Convention, as well as any body, including committees and working groups, established pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (c) of the Convention;

(i) "Parties present and voting" means Parties present at the meeting at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote; Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

II. SESSIONS

Place of sessions

Rule 3

The sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat of the Permanent Secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the Permanent Secretariat in consultation with the Parties.

Dates of sessions

Rule 4

1. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held yearly, and thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years.

2. At each ordinary session, the Conference of the Parties shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary session. The Conference of the Parties should endeavour not to hold such sessions at a time which would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult.

3. Extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such times as may be decided either by the Conference of the Parties in ordinary session or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within three months of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Permanent Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

4. In the case of an extraordinary session held at the written request of a Party, it shall be held not more than ninety days after the date at which the request is supported by at least one third of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 3.

Notification of sessions

Rule 5

The Permanent Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the dates and venue of an ordinary session at least two months before the session is due to commence. The dates and venue of an extraordinary session shall be notified in the communication to the Parties by the Permanent Secretariat pursuant to rule 4, paragraphs 3 and 4.

III. OBSERVERS

Participation of United Nations and specialized agencies

Rule 6

1. The United Nations, its specialized agencies, any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, as well as the organization housing the Global Mechanism pursuant to article 21, paragraph (5) of the Convention, may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers.

2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

Participation of other bodies or agencies

Rule 7

1. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

2. Such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

Notification by Secretariat

Rule 8

The Permanent Secretariat shall notify those entitled to be observers pursuant to rules 6 and 7 of the date and venue of any session of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. AGENDA

Preparation of provisional agenda

Rule 9

In agreement with the President, the Permanent Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each session.

Items on provisional agenda

Rule 10

The provisional agenda for each ordinary session shall include, as appropriate:

(a) Items arising from the articles of the Convention, including those specified in its article 22;

(b) Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous session;

(c) Items referred to in rule 16 of the present rules of procedure;

(d) The proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements;

(e) Any item proposed by a Party and received by the Permanent Secretariat before the provisional agenda is circulated.

Distribution of provisional agenda

Rule 11

For each ordinary session, the provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, shall be distributed in the official languages by the Permanent Secretariat to the Parties at least six weeks before the opening of the session.

Supplementary items

Rule 12

The Permanent Secretariat shall, in agreement with the President, include any item which is proposed by a Party and has been received by the Permanent Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the session, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Addition, deletion, deferment or amendment of items

Rule 13

When adopting the agenda, the Conference of the Parties may decide to add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items which are considered by the Conference of the Parties to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Provisional agenda of extraordinary session

Rule 14

The provisional agenda for an extraordinary session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the extraordinary session. It shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary session.

Report on administrative and budgetary implications

Rule 15

The Permanent Secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the administrative and budgetary implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the session, before they are considered by it. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, no such substantive agenda item shall be considered until at least forty-eight hours after the Conference of the Parties has received the report of the Permanent Secretariat on the administrative and budgetary implications.

Incomplete consideration of item

Rule 16

Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session, consideration of which has not been completed at the session, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary session, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

V. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegation

Rule 17

Each Party participating in a session shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as it may require.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 18

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

Submission of credentials

Rule 19

The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

Examination of credentials

Rule 20

The Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision.

Provisional participation

Rule 21

Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials.

VI. OFFICERS

Election of officers

Rule 22

1. At the commencement of the first meeting of each ordinary session, a President, nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. They shall serve as the Bureau of the session. One of the Vice-Presidents shall act as Rapporteur. In appointing the Bureau, due regard shall be paid to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties [in the regions referred to in the implementation annexes of the Convention], particularly those in Africa. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the regional groups recognized by the practice of the United Nations.

2. The officers referred to in paragraph 1 shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next ordinary session and shall serve in that capacity at any intervening extraordinary sessions. No officer may serve on the Bureau for more than two consecutive terms.

3. The President shall participate in the session in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the session and to exercise the right to vote.

General powers of the President

Rule 23

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by the present rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the session, preside at the meetings of the session, ensure the observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to the present rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat.

2. The President may propose to the Conference of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

3. The President, in the exercise of the powers of that office, remains under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

Acting President

Rule 24

1. The President, if temporarily absent from a meeting or any part thereof, shall designate a Vice-President to act as President. The President so designated shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the powers and duties of the President.

Replacement of an officer

Rule 25

If an officer of the Bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that officer's mandate.

Temporary President

Rule 26

At the first meeting of each ordinary session, the President of the previous ordinary session, or in the absence of the President, a Vice-President, shall preside until the Conference of the Parties has elected a President for the session.

VII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Application of rules to subsidiary bodies

Rule 27

Save as provided in rules 28 to 33, the present rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of any subsidiary bodies.

Establishment of subsidiary bodies

Rule 28

1. The Conference of the Parties may establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention.

2. Meetings of standing subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

3. Meetings of ad hoc subsidiary bodies shall be private unless the ad hoc subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

Quorum for non open-ended subsidiary bodies

Rule 29

In the case of a subsidiary body that is not open-ended, a majority of the Parties designated by the Conference of the Parties to participate therein shall constitute a quorum.

Dates of meetings

Rule 30

The Committee on Science and Technology shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties. Meetings of any other subsidiary bodies shall be held in conjunction with the sessions of the Conference of the Parties, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.

Election of officers of subsidiary bodies

Rule 31

The Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chairperson of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own four Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties [in the regions referred to in the implementation annexes of the Convention], particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Voting in subsidiary bodies

Rule 32

Subject to rule 31, subsidiary bodies shall not take votes.

Matters for consideration

Rule 33

Subject to article 24 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each subsidiary body and may authorize the President, upon the request of a subsidiary body, to adjust the allocation of work.

VIII. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Duties of the head of the Permanent Secretariat

Rule 34

1. The head of the Permanent Secretariat, or the representative of the head of the Permanent Secretariat, shall exercise the functions of that office in all sessions of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies.

2. The head of the Permanent Secretariat shall arrange for the provision of staff and services required by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, within available resources. The head of the Permanent Secretariat shall manage and direct such staff and services and provide appropriate support and advice to the presiding and other officers of the Conference of the Parties and of its subsidiary bodies.

Functions of the Permanent Secretariat

Rule 35

In addition to its functions specified in the Convention, particularly in article 23, the Permanent Secretariat shall in accordance with the present rules:

(a) Arrange for interpretation at the session;

(b) Collect, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the session;

(c) Publish and distribute the official documents of the session;

(d) Make, and arrange for keeping of, sound recordings of the session;

(e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the session; and

(f) Perform all other work that the Conference of the Parties may require.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Meetings

Rule 36

1. Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.

Quorum

Rule 37

The President shall not declare a meeting of the Conference of the Parties open or permit the debate to proceed unless at least one third of the Parties to the Convention are present. The presence of two thirds of the Parties to the Convention shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Procedures for speaking

Rule 38

1. No one may speak at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 39, 40, 41 and 43, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Permanent Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

2. The Conference of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

Precedence

Rule 39

The Chairperson or Rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Points of order

Rule 40

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Decisions on competence

Rule 41

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference of the Parties to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Proposals and amendments to proposals

Rule 42

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing, in one of the official languages, by the Parties and handed to the Permanent Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting unless copies of it have been circulated to delegations in all the official languages not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals, amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

Order of procedural motions

Rule 43

1. Subject to rule 40, the following motions shall have precedence in the order indicated below over all other proposals or motions:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within paragraph 1 (a) to (d) shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

Withdrawal of proposals or motions

Rule 44

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the proposal or motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 45

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session, unless the Conference of the Parties, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover, to one speaker in favour of, and two against, the proposal, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote.

X. VOTING

Right to vote

Rule 46

1. Each Party shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.

2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Majority required

Rule 47

1. [The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, [except for decisions taken under article 21 [and article 22 paragraph 2 (g)] of the Convention which shall be agreed upon by consensus, or] [unless otherwise provided by

(a) the Convention,

(b) the financial rules referred to in article 22, paragraph 2 (e) of the Convention, or

(c) the present rules of procedure.]]

2. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties on matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority vote of the Parties present and voting.

3. If the question arises as to whether a matter is one of a procedural or substantive nature, the President shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting.

4. If, on matters other than elections, a vote is equally divided, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote is also equally divided, the proposal shall be regarded as withdrawn.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 48

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Conference of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Conference of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Division of proposals and amendments

Rule 49

1. Any representative may request that any part of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. The President shall allow the request unless a Party objects. If an objection is made to the request for division, the President shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the request, after which it shall be put immediately to the vote. The President may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

2. If the request referred to in paragraph 1 is allowed or adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal which are approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendment to a proposal

Rule 50

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises parts of that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Order of voting on amendments to a proposal

Rule 51

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. The President shall determine the order of voting on the amendments under this rule.

Method of voting for general matters

Rule 52

1. Voting, except for elections, shall normally be by show of hands. A roll-call vote shall be taken if one is requested by any Party. It shall be taken in the order used or established by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly of the United Nations. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.

2. When the Conference of the Parties votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call.

3. The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call or recorded vote shall be included in the relevant documents of the session.

Conduct during voting

Rule 53

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The President may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal to explain his/her vote on his/her own proposal or amendment, except if it has been amended.

XI. ELECTIONS

Method of voting for elections

Rule 54

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

Absence of majority

Rule 55

1. If, when one person or one delegation is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting, a second ballot restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes shall be taken. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a second ballot shall be held. If a tie results among more than two candidates, the number shall be reduced to two by lot and the balloting, restricted to them, shall continue in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 1.

Election to two or more elective places

Rule 56

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes cast by the Parties present and voting shall be deemed elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or delegations to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, provided that, after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or delegation.

3. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

XII. LANGUAGES AND SOUND RECORDS

Official languages

Rule 57

The official languages of the Conference of the Parties shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Interpretation

Rule 58

1. Statements made in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than an official language if the Party provides for interpretation into one such official language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 59

Official documents of the sessions shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official languages.

Sound records of sessions

Rule 60

Sound records of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and whenever possible of the subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Permanent Secretariat, consistent with the practice of the United Nations.

XIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Amendments

Rule 61

The present rules of procedure may be amended by the Conference of the Parties by consensus.

XIV. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION

Precedence of Convention

Rule 62

In the event of any conflict between any provision of the present rules and any provision of the Convention, the latter shall prevail.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

Italicized headings

Rule 63

The italicized headings of the present rules are for reference purposes only. They shall be disregarded in the interpretation of the rules.

Decision 2/COP.1

Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (e), which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat,

Decides to adopt the financial rules annexed to the present decision.

Annex

FINANCIAL RULES FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

Scope

1. The present rules shall govern the financial administration of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat. In so far as not specifically provided by the present rules, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations shall apply.

Financial period

2. The financial period shall be a biennium, of which the first calendar year shall be an even-numbered year.

Budget

3. The head of the Convention Secretariat shall prepare the budget estimates for the following biennium in United States dollars showing projected income and expenditures for each year of the biennium concerned. The head of the Convention Secretariat shall dispatch the estimates to all Parties to the Convention at least ninety days before the opening of the session of the Conference of the Parties at which the budget is to be adopted.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall, prior to the commencement of the financial period that the budget covers, consider the budget estimates and adopt by consensus a core budget authorizing expenditures other than those referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10.

5. Adoption of the core budget by the Conference of the Parties shall constitute authority to the head of the Convention Secretariat to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriations were approved and up to the amounts so approved, provided always that, unless specifically authorized by the Conference of the Parties, commitments shall be covered by related income.

6. The head of the Convention Secretariat may make transfers within each of the main appropriation lines of the approved core budget. The head of the Convention Secretariat may also make transfers between such appropriation lines up to limits which the Conference of the Parties may set as appropriate.

Funds

7. A General Fund for the Convention shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the Convention Secretariat. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a), along with any additional contributions to offset core budget expenditures that are made, pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and 12 (c), by the Government hosting the Convention Secretariat and by the United Nations shall be credited to the General Fund. All core budget expenditures made pursuant to paragraph 5 shall be charged to the General Fund.

8. Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible.

9. A Supplementary Fund shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the Convention Secretariat. The Supplementary Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c), other than those specified in paragraphs 7 and 10, including contributions earmarked, in accordance with paragraph 15, for:

(a) Support to the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitation of assistance to affected developing countries in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

(c) Other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

10. A Special Fund shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the Convention Secretariat. The Special Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) earmarked to support the participation of representatives of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

11. In the event that the Conference of the Parties decides to terminate a fund established pursuant to the present rules, it shall so advise the Secretary-General of the United Nations at least six months before the date of termination so decided. The Conference of the Parties shall decide, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the distribution of any uncommitted balances after all liquidation expenses have been met.

Contributions

12. The resources of the Conference of the Parties shall comprise:

(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

(b) Other contributions made by Parties in addition to those made pursuant to paragraph (a);

(c) Contributions from States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other sources;

(d) The uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods attributed to the fund concerned;

(e) Miscellaneous income attributed to the fund concerned.

13. The Conference of the Parties shall, in adopting the indicative scale of contributions referred to in paragraph 12 (a), make adjustments to take account of contributions of Parties which are not members of the United Nations, as well as those of regional economic integration organizations that are Parties.

14. In respect of contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a):

(a) Contributions for each calendar year are expected on or before 1 January of that year;

(b) Each Party shall, as far in advance as possible of the date due for the contribution, inform the head of the Convention Secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and of the projected timing of that contribution.

15. Contributions made pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) shall be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Convention, as may be agreed between the head of the Convention Secretariat and the contributor. Contributions to the Supplementary Fund referred to in paragraph 9 shall, as appropriate, be placed in sub-accounts.

16. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a) from States and regional economic integration organizations that become Parties to the Convention after the beginning of a financial period shall be made pro rata temporis for the balance of that financial period. Consequent adjustments shall be made at the end of each financial period for other Parties.

17. All contributions shall be paid in United States dollars or its equivalent in a convertible currency into a bank account to be designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the head of the Convention Secretariat.

18. The head of the Convention Secretariat shall acknowledge promptly all pledges and contributions and shall inform the Parties, once a year, of the status of pledges and payments of contributions.

19. Contributions not immediately required shall be invested at the discretion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the head of the Convention Secretariat. The resulting income shall be credited to the appropriate fund or funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10.

Accounts and audit

20. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations.

21. During the second year of the financial period the United Nations shall provide the Parties with an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period. The United Nations shall also, as soon as practicable, provide to the Parties a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period.

Administrative support costs

22. The Conference of the Parties, under such terms as may from time to time be mutually agreed upon between it and the United Nations, shall reimburse the United Nations from the funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10, as the case may be for the purposes of services rendered, including the administration of the relevant fund by the United Nations, to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat.

Amendments

23. Any amendment to the present rules shall be adopted by the Conference of the Parties by consensus.

Decision 3/COP.1

Designation of a Convention Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 23, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, shall, at its first session, designate a Convention Secretariat and make arrangement for its functioning,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the administrative arrangements involved in the designation of a Convention Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning,

1. Notes with appreciation the advice of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on this matter, as contained in document A/AC.241/44, as amended in paragraph 4 of document A/AC.241/55, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

2. Also notes with appreciation the advice of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on this matter, as contained in document A/AC.241/55/Add.2, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

3. Accepts the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, contained in documents A/AC.241/44 and A/AC.241/55, for the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to provide these administrative and support arrangements for the Convention Secretariat of the Convention, pursuant to article 23 of the Convention;

4. Decides that, in order for the Convention Secretariat to enjoy the administrative and financial autonomy necessary to ensure efficient servicing of the Convention and of its implementation, it should not be fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme of the United Nations;

5. Decides to review these arrangements not later than at its fourth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue the question of the allotment of overhead to defray administrative expenses as indicated in the advice of the Secretary-General and to report the results at its second session;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the departments and programmes of the United Nations, as well as agencies of the United Nations system, that have supported the Interim Secretariat of the Convention and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process in general, expresses the desire that the support and cooperation given by those departments, programmes and agencies should continue, and invites these entities and the Executive Secretary to collaborate in reaching understandings that specify the nature of cooperation and support that each entity would provide to the Convention Secretariat.

Decision 4/COP.1

Interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and for the Secretariat of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the General Assembly resolution 51/180 whereby it approved the interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties to the CCD and the Secretariat of the Convention,

1. Notes with appreciation the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention Secretariat as contained in documents A/AC.241/44 and A/AC.241/55;

2. Requests the General Assembly, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention Secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States including those who are on the list of LDCs that are Parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the Regular Programme Budget of the United Nations the Conference servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage approved by the Conference of the Parties decision;

3. Requests further the General Assembly to include the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998-1999;

4. Requests also the Secretary-General to appoint, after consultation with the Conference of the Parties through its Bureau, the first head of the Convention Secretariat, with the title of Executive Secretary at the level of Assistant Secretary-General on an exceptional basis for a three-year period starting on 1 January 1999, and decides that at the end of the term of the first head of the Convention Secretariat the post of the head of the Convention Secretariat be classified at the D-2 level, with all other senior posts of the Secretariat from 1 January 1999 having appropriate relationship to the D-2 level;

5. Requests the President of the first Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD to present to the General Assembly the results of its first session held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to its second session on the implementation of this decision.

Decision 5/COP.1

Physical location of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 23, paragraph 3 of the Convention,

Noting the agreement that has emerged for the City of Bonn to be the seat of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention,

1. Decides to accept the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to host the Permanent Secretariat;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat to consult the authorities of the host Government regarding arrangements for the smooth transition from the Interim to the Permanent Secretariat;

3. Encourages the Executive Secretary as a matter of urgency to negotiate a headquarters agreement in an appropriate manner with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with its offer, and upon such terms and conditions as are appropriate and necessary, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and to submit it to the Conference of the Parties for adoption at a subsequent session;

4. Stresses that, with a view to enabling the Permanent Secretariat to effectively discharge its functions under the Convention, such an agreement should, in particular, reflect the following:

(a) The Permanent Secretariat should possess in the host country such legal capacity as is necessary for the effective discharge of its functions under the Convention, in particular to contract, to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and to institute legal proceedings;

(b) The Permanent Secretariat should enjoy in the territory of the host country such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the effective discharge of its functions under the Convention;

(c) The representatives of the Parties and Observer States (and regional economic integration organizations) to the Convention as well as the officials of the Permanent Secretariat should similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions under the Convention;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary to promote conditions of service in Bonn consistent with the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and that help to maintain a critical mass of the existing secretariat team by encouraging experienced staff members of all categories and linguistic backgrounds to relocate;

6. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its commitment to fulfil the terms of its offer to host the Permanent Secretariat and to facilitate the resettlement of its staff in attractive conditions; and expresses the hope that the headquarters agreement can enter into force on time for the relocation of the Permanent Secretariat to take place as soon as possible so that the Permanent Secretariat starts operating on 1 January 1999.

Decision 6/COP.1

Budget and programme of the Convention for 1999

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (g), which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and undertake necessary arrangements for their financing,

Having considered the proposed budget for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998-1999, presented by the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat in document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1, and taking account also of documents A/AC.241/46 and A/AC.241/65,

1. Approves the core budget of the Convention for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998-1999, amounting to US$ 6,100,000 [1/], for the following purposes, not including conference servicing costs:

1999 Expenditures
(thousands of US$)

I.	Programmes administered by the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention	
	Policy-making organs	48.0
	Executive direction and management	557.6
	Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies	842.9
	Facilitation of implementation and coordination	1006.8
	External relations	431.9
	Global Mechanism	1003.0
	Administration and systems support	1094.3
	Administrative overhead charges	648.0[a/]
	Subtotal	5632.5
II.	Working capital reserve	467.5
	TOTAL	6100.0

1/ Assuming that the estimated offset due to the relocation of the Permanent Secretariat will be at least US$ 600,000.

a/ Assumes agreement with the United Nations on a 13 per cent overhead charge for 1999.

2. Takes note of estimates of contributions to offset the expenditures approved in paragraph 1 above, as follows:

	1999 Contributions (thousands of US$)
I. Contributions from the host Government	TBD[b/]
II. Allotment of overhead for administration	TBD

3. (a) Welcomes General Assembly resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996, and particularly paragraph 13 thereof whereby it requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, to consider maintaining the arrangements within the current programme budget of the United Nations for the Interim Secretariat to support the Convention beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the Permanent Secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should be no later than 31 December 1998;

(b) Notes that conference servicing costs, provision for which has been requested from the United Nations General Assembly, are estimated at $1,000,000 for 1999, plus overhead charges; and that, should the General Assembly not accede to this request, the related cost will be charged to the Parties;

4. Approves the staffing table for the Permanent Secretariat under the 1999 core budget as follows:

	1999 posts
I. Professional category and above	
ASG	1
D-2	
D-1	1
P-5	6
P-4	2
P-3	6
P-2	5
Subtotal	21
II. General Service category	11
TOTAL	32

b/ In accordance with the terms contained in the offer of the Government of Germany, DM 1,000,000 for Convention events and DM 1,000,000 to the Permanent Secretariat beyond commitments as Party. Estimated dollar equivalent will be inserted at the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties, at its second session, any proposed adjustments to the Convention budget for 1999, on a detailed basis, including programme expenditure, overhead charges and offsetting contributions, taking account particularly of revisions deriving from the decision on the physical location of the Permanent Secretariat;

6. Authorizes the head of the Permanent Secretariat to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines set out in paragraph 1, Part I, above, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for a given year for those appropriation lines, provided that in the process no appropriation line is reduced by more than 25 per cent;

7. Determines that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges;

8. Recalls that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules, contributions for 1999 are expected on or before 1 January 1999 and that each Party should, as far in advance as possible of that date, inform the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and the projected timing of that contribution;

9. Invites all Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full the contributions required to finance expenditures approved under paragraph 1 above as offset by estimated contributions noted in paragraph 2, taking account at an appropriate time of any revisions made to these estimates.

Decision 7/COP.1

The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the estimates for 1999 for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1,

1. Takes note of the estimated requirements submitted by the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat;

2. Invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules, in order to:

(a) support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation Annexes;

(c) advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

3. Further invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Special Fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules, in order to support the participation of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

4. Requests the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention to report to the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties on the status of the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund and to propose any related adjustments that might be required for 1999.

Decision 8/COP.1

Extrabudgetary funding for 1998

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary on extrabudgetary funding for the Interim Secretariat in 1998 (ICCD/COP(1)/4),

1. Takes note of the estimates of requirements for extrabudgetary funding for 1998 submitted by the Executive Secretary;

2. Notes with appreciation the contributions made thus far to the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188, and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, to continue to make voluntary contributions to that fund during the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties, which should end no later than 31 December 1998;

3. Also notes with appreciation the contributions made thus far to the Special Voluntary Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188, and also invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, to continue to make voluntary contributions to that fund during the transition period so that developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular least developed countries, can participate fully and effectively in the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

4. Requests the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention to report to the second session of the Conference of the Parties on the status of contributions to, and expenditures from, the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund;

5. Decides that the head of the Permanent Secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, may use the Special Voluntary Fund, as appropriate, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

6. Decides further that the head of the Permanent Secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, may use the Trust Fund, as appropriate, to support also the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

7. Requests the General Assembly to take necessary action to arrange for the Secretary-General to authorize the head of the Interim Secretariat to use the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 above;

8. Requests the General Assembly to transfer any amounts remaining in the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund as of 31 December 1998 respectively to the Supplementary Fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules and to the Special Fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules.

Decision 9/COP.1

Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

1. Decides to include the following standing items on its agenda:

(a) review of the implementation of the Convention, and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b), and article 26, of the Convention;

(b) review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(c) review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it;

(d) review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention; and

(e) adoption or adjustment of the programme and budget;

2. Also decides to review the implementation of the Convention at its second session on the basis of statements and documents presented by delegations at that session;

3. Further decides to include the following selected items on the agenda for its second session and, if necessary, its third session:

(a) promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2 (i), of the Convention;

(b) consideration with a view to adopt, pursuant to article 27 of the Convention, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation; and

(c) consideration with a view to adopt, in accordance with article 28, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, an annex containing arbitration procedures;

4. Requests the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention to circulate at least three months prior to the second session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda, and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions in paragraphs 1-3 above;

5. Recalls the requirement of article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention that the Conference of the Parties shall at its third session review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of that review, consider and take appropriate action.

Decision 10/COP.1

Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also article 24 of the Convention relating to the Committee on Science and Technology and article 26 relating to the Communication of Information,

1. Decides to continue to consider this decision and take action, at its third session, whether there is a need to establish additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist it in its task of regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides also to transmit the draft decision contained in document A/AC.241/L.42 to its third session for consideration.

Decision 11/COP.1

Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 of the Convention, which provides that each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention, reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention and that the Conference of the Parties shall determine the timetable for submission and the format of such reports,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements in the light of the experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels and on the basis of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge,

Recalling further article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, and determine the form and timetable for transmitting the information to be submitted pursuant to article 26, review the reports and make recommendations on them,

Conscious of the desirability of adopting procedures to organize and streamline the communication of information,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on this issue,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision.

Introduction

1. The purpose of the present procedures is to organize and streamline the communication of information pursuant to article 26 of the Convention in order to facilitate the regular review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, and to promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention.

2. Specific objectives of the procedures include the following:

(a) To ensure the effective assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives of the Convention and to enable the Conference of the Parties to make appropriate recommendations to further those objectives;

(b) To exchange information and data among Parties in order to maximize the benefits of successful measures and initiatives under the Convention;

(c) To ensure that the Committee on Science and Technology and the global mechanism have access to the information and data necessary to carry out their mandates;

(d) To ensure that information on implementation is in the public domain and available to the international community, particularly intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other interested entities.

General obligation to report

3. Each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention.

4. Affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to article 5 of the Convention and of any relevant information on their implementation.

5. Affected country Parties which implement action programmes pursuant to articles 9 to 15 of the Convention shall provide a detailed description of the programmes and their implementation.

6. In addition to reports on action programmes pursuant to paragraph 5, any group of affected country Parties may make a joint communication, directly or through a competent subregional or regional organization, on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in implementation of the Convention.

7. Developed country Parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention.

8. Parties are encouraged to make full use of the expertise of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the preparation of reports and in the dissemination of relevant information.

9. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are encouraged to provide information, as appropriate, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention.

Format and content of reports

10. Reports should be as concise as possible to facilitate their review. They should be structured as follows, taking into account the degree of development of action programmes and other relevant circumstances:

(a) Reports on national action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies;

(iv) The institutional measures taken to implement the Convention;

(v) The participatory process in support of the preparation and implementation of the action programme;

(vi) The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the national action programme and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities;

(vii) The measures taken or planned within the framework of the national action programmes, including measures to improve the economic environment, to conserve natural resources, to improve institutional organization, to improve knowledge of desertification and to monitor and assess the effects of drought;

(viii) Financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements;

(ix) A review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof;

(b) Reports on joint, subregional and regional action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The areas of cooperation under the programme and measures taken or planned;

(iv) The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the subregional or regional action programmes and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities;

(v) Financial allocations by affected country Parties of the subregion or region in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements;

(vi) A review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof;

(c) Reports of developed country Parties

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The consultative processes and partnership agreements in which they are involved;

(iv) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally;

(d) Reports of affected developed country Parties not preparing action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and any relevant information on their implementation.

11. Information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, should include summaries, in principle not exceeding four pages.

Language of reports

12. Reports shall be communicated to the Permanent Secretariat in one of the official languages of the Conference of the Parties.

Timetable for the submission of reports

13. The Conference of the Parties shall initiate, at its third session, review of the reports submitted by the Parties, alternating between affected African country Parties and affected country Parties of other regions. At its third session, the Conference of the Parties shall examine the reports of affected African country Parties. At its fourth session, the Conference of the Parties shall examine the reports of affected country Parties of other regions. Such rotation shall apply to subsequent sessions.

14. Developed country Parties shall report, at each session, on measures taken to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties reporting for the session. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to do likewise.

15. Reports shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat at least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed.

Compilation and synthesis by the Permanent Secretariat

16. The Permanent Secretariat shall compile the summaries of reports submitted pursuant to paragraphs 3 to 7, and of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on measures taken or planned in support of implementation of the Convention.

17. The Permanent Secretariat shall prepare, in addition, a synthesis of the reports setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention.

Review process

18. Reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the global mechanism consistent with their respective mandates and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for, shall constitute the basis of the review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties.

Periodic reports

19. After the third ordinary session and following every subsequent ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, the Permanent Secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing the conclusions of the review process.

Official documents

20. Documents prepared by the Permanent Secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 16, 17 and 19 shall constitute official documents of the Conference of the Parties.

Availability of reports

21. All reports communicated to the Permanent Secretariat in accordance with the present procedures, as well as institutional information pursuant to paragraph 22, shall be in the public domain. The Permanent Secretariat shall make available copies of the reports to any interested Parties and other entities or individuals.

Communication of institutional information to the Permanent Secretariat

22. To facilitate exchanges of information and informal contacts within and outside the review process, Parties shall communicate to the Permanent Secretariat, as soon as practicable, information concerning the names, addresses and phone numbers of national, subregional, and regional focal points and coordinating bodies.

23. The Permanent Secretariat shall keep in databases and/or directories, and regularly update, information provided in accordance with the present procedures.

Assistance to developing country Parties in the preparation of reports

24. The Permanent Secretariat shall, on request and within the limits of its resources, facilitate assistance to affected developing country Parties, particularly affected African country Parties and least developed Parties among them, in the compilation and communication of information pursuant to the present procedures, or seek such assistance from bilateral donors and/or competent intergovernmental organizations.

Decision 12/COP.1

Regional Implementation annexes

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the outcome of the regional CCD Conferences, such as the adoption of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Action Programme,

Emphasizing the fact that these initiatives are in clear response to the mandate of the Convention and to the requests contained in Agenda 21,

Recognizing that among the objectives of regional action programmes is the need to integrate the work that international agencies carry out, so as to facilitate the work at the national level by governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Recalling that another main objective of regional action programmes is to develop and strengthen regional coordinating mechanisms, established in the regional annexes to the Convention,

Decides:

(a) To welcome the agreements made by the Parties of Regional Implementation Annexes and to encourage them to strengthen and widen their national and regional efforts in support of the implementation of the Convention;

(b) To welcome also the adoption by the countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean region of the Regional Action Programme and encourages the other regions to accelerate the process of adoption of the regional action programmes;

(c) To encourage those countries which have still not done so to ratify or accede to the Convention and to engage in regional processes;

(d) To request the Executive Secretary to facilitate assistance in accordance with the provisions of article 23 (2) of the Convention, for the effective and efficient functioning of regional action programmes;

(e) To encourage the regions having Implementation Annexes to expand their efforts to collaborate and exchange experiences with other regions of the Convention in order to improve CCD interregional cooperation.

Decision 13/COP.1

Collaboration with other conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the "Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21" adopted by the nineteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which, inter alia, recommends that the conference of the parties to conventions signed at the Rio Conference or as a result of it, as well as other conventions related to sustainable development, cooperate in exploring ways and means of collaborating in their work to advance the effective implementation of the conventions,

Recalling also the "Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21" adopted by the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, which, inter alia, recommends that "the role of UNEP in the further development of international environmental law should be strengthened, including the development of coherent interlinkages among relevant environmental conventions in cooperation with their respective conferences of the Parties or governing bodies. In performing its functions related to the conventions signed at the Rio Conference or as a result of it and other relevant conventions, UNEP should strive to promote the effective implementation of those conventions in a manner consistent with the provisions of the conventions and the decisions of the conferences of the Parties",

Recalling further that it welcomes and fully supports efforts of convention secretariats, in response to requests from the respective conferences of the parties, to explore, where appropriate, modalities for suitable liaison arrangements in Geneva and/or New York for the purpose of enhancing linkages with delegations and organizations at those United Nations centres,

1. Takes note of the above-mentioned recommendations of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;

2. Requests the head of the Interim Secretariat to make all efforts to strengthen further the collaboration with other relevant conventions and in particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as well as other conventions related to sustainable development, and thereby assist UNEP in its role of developing coherent interlinkages among relevant environmental conventions in cooperation with their respective conferences of the parties;

3. Requests also the head of the Interim Secretariat to report to its next session on the implementation of this decision.

Decision 14/COP.1

Relations with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 20, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

1. Welcomes the excellent cooperation existing between its secretariat and the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as the reciprocal representation in meetings of the Convention and those of the GEF;

2. Welcomes further the adoption of the operational strategy of the GEF, as well as the decision taken by the GEF Council at its ninth meeting to take appropriate steps to identify, prepare and implement GEF-financed activities to combat land degradation as they relate to biodiversity, climate change and international waters;

3. Invites the Council of the GEF to report as appropriate to the Conference of the Parties on matters relating to the issue of land degradation.

Decision 15/COP.1

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall decide, at its first session, on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph (2) (h), of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall, as appropriate, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Decides to adopt the terms of reference attached to the present decision.

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the Committee on Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties. The role of the Committee is to provide the Conference of the Parties with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought to ensure that its decisions are based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.

Functions

2. Consistent with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its articles 16 to 18 and 24, and at the request of the Conference of the Parties, the functions of the Committee include the following.

(a) Advisory functions

(i) Provide scientific and technological information needed to implement the Convention.

(ii) Collect information, analyse, assess and report on the impact of developments in science and technology and give advice on the possible utilization of such developments for the implementation of the Convention.

(iii) Advise the Conference of the Parties on the possible implications of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge for programmes and activities under the Convention, particularly in connection with the review of implementation pursuant to paragraph 22 (2) (a) of the Convention.

(iv) Advise on possible research priorities for particular regions and subregions, reflecting different local conditions.

(v) Make recommendations on the establishment of ad hoc panels, including issues relating to the terms of reference, composition and modalities of work of the panels.

(vi) Advise on the structure, membership and maintenance of the roster of independent experts bearing in mind the recognition in the Convention of local knowledge and expertise.

(b) Data and information functions

(i) Make recommendations regarding the collection, analysis and exchange of data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification.

(ii) Make recommendations on pertinent, quantifiable and verifiable indicators which might be used in connection with action programmes.

(c) Research and review functions

(i) Make recommendations regarding specialized research on the scientific and technological tools necessary to implement the Convention and on evaluation of the results of such research.

(ii) Identify, as appropriate, new scientific and technological approaches with particular reference to the multidisciplinary aspects of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(iii) Make recommendations for promoting cooperative and comparative research between regions with different cultural and socio-economic circumstances.

(iv) Make recommendations for promoting participative research on relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through, *inter alia*, the utilization of information and services provided by local populations and other competent bodies, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

(d) Functions related to technology

(i) Make recommendations on ways and means to identify and use technology, knowledge, know-how and practices relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(ii) Make recommendations on ways and means to exchange information regarding technology, knowledge, know-how and practices, including through the network referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4.

(e) Evaluation functions

(i) Monitor the application of science and technology to research projects relating to the implementation of the Convention and report to the Conference of the Parties.

(ii) Examine the scientific and technological relevance and feasibility of research conducted pursuant to action programmes under the Convention.

Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

3. In accordance with article 25 of the Convention, the Committee shall, under the supervision of the Conference of the Parties, make provision for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of the relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support the implementation of the Convention.

4. On the basis of the results of the survey and evaluation referred to in paragraph 3, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to facilitate and strengthen networking of the units at the local, national and other levels, with a view to ensuring that the thematic needs set out in articles 16 to 19 of the Convention are addressed.

Composition and Bureau

5. The Committee shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. It shall be composed of government representatives competent in fields of expertise relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

6. The Committee shall elect its own Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chairperson, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they shall constitute the Bureau. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Programme of work and reports

7. The Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties.

8. The Committee shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on its work, including at each of its sessions.

9. The Bureau of the Committee shall be responsible for follow-up of the work of the Committee between sessions and may benefit from the assistance of ad hoc panels established by the Conference of the Parties.

Liaison with the scientific community and cooperation with international organizations

10. The Committee shall serve as a liaison between the Conference of the Parties and the scientific community. In carrying out its functions, it shall, in particular, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental.

11. The Committee shall keep itself informed of the activities of the scientific advisory bodies of other conventions and of relevant international organizations, and shall coordinate its activities and cooperate closely with them to avoid duplication of work and optimize results.

Transparency of work

12. The results of the work of the Committee shall be in the public domain.

Decision 16/COP.1

Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

1. Decides that at each session the Committee on Science and Technology will address in depth a priority issue relating to the implementation of the Convention and further decides that the first such issue to be dealt with at the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology will be traditional knowledge;

2. Also decides that the work programme for the second session of the Committee shall include the other topics on the agenda for the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

3. Invites Parties to submit proposals in writing to the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention no later than 31 December 1997 on topics for inclusion in the agenda of the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Decision 17/COP.1

Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision

Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties may, in principle in its ordinary session, and as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Terms of reference and modalities of work

2. The Conference of the Parties shall, in principle in its ordinary session, determine the terms of reference and modalities of work of each ad hoc panel, including its duration.

Composition and number of ad hoc panels

3. Ad hoc panels shall be composed of experts whose names are taken from the roster of independent experts, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance, and broad and equitable geographical representation. They shall have scientific or other relevant backgrounds and field experience.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the composition of each ad hoc panel according to the specific needs of each case and shall designate a coordinator from among members of the panel to conduct the work and prepare the report. The number of members of any ad hoc panel shall not exceed twelve.

5. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the composition of the ad hoc panels reflects local and traditional knowledge and expertise.

6. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the number of ad hoc panels which, in principle, shall not exceed three at any one time.

Reports of ad hoc panels

7. Ad hoc panels shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Committee on Science and Technology. The Committee may not amend or revise the reports of ad hoc panels. However, it may comment or make recommendations based upon them.

8. Reports of ad hoc panels shall be in the public domain and, where appropriate, be disseminated through different mechanisms to all interested Parties.

Decision 18/COP.1

Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields, based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the establishment of a roster of independent experts,

Decides to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts on the basis of the procedures attached to the present decision

Establishment and maintenance of a roster of experts

Introduction

1. A roster of independent experts is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its article 24, paragraph 2. Its purpose is to provide the Conference of the Parties with an up-to-date list of independent experts in the various fields of specialization relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, from which members of ad hoc panels may be selected.

Selection of experts to be included on the roster

2. Each Party may nominate experts on the roster, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and broad and equitable geographical representation. Nominees shall have expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

3. Nominations shall be communicated by the Parties to the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention through diplomatic channels. In addition to the names of the experts, the communications shall include a reference to their field(s) of expertise, as well as their addresses.

4. Experts nominated by the Parties shall *ipso facto* be included on the roster.

5. Parties may make new nominations or withdraw previous nominations to the roster at any time by so notifying the Permanent Secretariat through diplomatic channels.

Disciplines to be represented

6. The roster of experts should reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to provide advice on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention and the expertise required to implement the provisions of the Convention, notably its articles 16 to 19, including expertise from grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Review by the Conference of the Parties

7. The Conference of the Parties shall review the roster regularly and at least at every other ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and shall formulate recommendations in order for the roster to be consistent with the requirements provided for in paragraph 2 above.

Maintenance of roster

8. The Permanent Secretariat shall maintain the roster, which shall be in the public domain.

Decision 19/COP.1

Roster of Independent Experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed the proposed roster of independent experts (ICCD/COP(1)/6 and Add.1) prepared by the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention in accordance with decision 10/11 based on submissions from Parties by diplomatic channels,

1. Requests Parties to supplement their submissions to the Permanent Secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas are addressed in particular by:

(a) making the roster more balanced in terms of gender representation;

(b) ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines, particularly in the areas of anthropology and sociology, health sciences, legislation, microbiology and trade;

(c) increasing representation of experts from non-governmental and international organizations;

2. Also requests Parties who have not yet submitted experts for the roster to do so as a matter of urgency;

3. Requests the Permanent Secretariat to ensure that the roster be made available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information;

4. Further requests the Permanent Secretariat to distribute a paper copy of the roster to Parties on an annual basis.

Decision 20/COP.1

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the report of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5 on modalities and timing of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology on inventories of research and traditional knowledge, and research priorities,

1. Encourages Parties and observers to collate information they have respecting the use of traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices and to provide reports not exceeding five pages in length on such topic to the Permanent Secretariat no later than 31 December 1997;

2. Encourages Parties and observers to include in such reports information and comments on the overall role of traditional and local technology and how it might be linked to modern technology, and also on the role of non-governmental and community-based organizations in the gathering of information related to, and in the application of, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices;

3. Requests the Permanent Secretariat to prepare a synthesis of such reports to submit for consideration at the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

4. Requests the Committee on Science and Technology at its second session to allocate a full additional day, and with the participation of international, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and community-based organization representatives, to allow for a review of the report of the Permanent Secretariat and discussion of the topic and to reach conclusions and recommendations;

5. Invites Parties and observers, where possible, to make contributions on a subregional or regional basis on this topic during the second session of the Committee.

Decision 21/COP.1

Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the reports of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention contained in documents A/AC.241/67 and ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4 on other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology,

1. Invites Governments to supplement the information contained in such reports by submitting in writing to the Permanent Secretariat the names and relevant information on additional organizations, whether national, subregional or regional for addition to such lists by 31 December 1997;

2. Requests the Permanent Secretariat to consolidate the information contained in documents A/AC.241/67 and ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4;

3. Requests the Permanent Secretariat to report to the second session of the Conference with a consolidated report, including the additional information received;

4. Requests the Permanent Secretariat to make the information available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information.

Decision 22/COP.1

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 10/9 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD),

Noting with appreciation the reports contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3 and Add.1 containing the comments of INCD members on the status of indicators, the comments of organizations on the work currently under way, and the elements for a method to determine impact indicators,

Recalling also the informal process initiated by the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention in accordance with decision 9/12 of the INCD and continued pursuant to decision 10/9 which brought together international, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested INCD members in the examination of benchmarks and indicators relevant to the Convention,

1. Requests Governments to initiate testing of the implementation indicators identified in A/AC.241/Inf.4, as revised by ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1;

2. Further requests Governments to report on the utility of such implementation indicators and the practicality of using those indicators in national reporting to the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. Appoints, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 24, an ad hoc panel to be composed of ten experts to be nominated in accordance with the procedures [1] provided for the establishment of ad hoc panels (ICCD/COP(1)/2) to act as a steering committee to oversee the continuation of such informal process;

4. Encourages the participants in such process to intensify their cooperation and collaboration in the work on benchmarks and indicators in the furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Convention;

5. Requests the Interim Secretariat, in consultation with the ad hoc panel once constituted, to continue such informal process for the purpose of reviewing the methodology for impact indicators contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1, and for the purpose of determining how the methodology could be carried out and whether it could be recommended for use to the Conference of the Parties;

6. Invites Parties and observers to provide comments in writing by 31 December 1997 to the Permanent Secretariat on the proposed methodology for impact indicators to be used in the informal process;

7. Requests the ad hoc panel to report on its work to the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology at the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

---

[1] Adopted with a reservation of Spain.

Decision 23/COP.1

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Noting the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology with respect to the terms of reference and the most suitable contractor for the work contemplated in article 25 of the Convention,

1. Decides to adopt the terms of reference for the work attached in Annex I;

2. Approves the proposal of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of itself and a consortium of members, contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1 for the amount proposed, plus 13 per cent programme support costs, and requests the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention to enter into any necessary contractual arrangements on behalf of the Conference of the Parties for completion of the work within the framework of the attached terms of reference;

3. Requests UNEP to include the participation of any other organization qualified and able to contribute to the work contemplated in the proposal, provided that such organization indicates its interest to UNEP no later than 15 December 1997;

4. Requests Parties, signatories to the Convention and interested organizations including the Global Environment Facility to contribute to the Trust Fund established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/188 for the purpose of funding the work contemplated by this decision.

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON NETWORKING OF INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND BODIES

1. Phases

Recognizing that a complete inventory and evaluation of all networks, institutions, agencies and bodies will be a lengthy process, it is proposed that the work plan of the survey and evaluation activity of the Committee on Science and Technology will need to be broken into three phases (A/AC.241/66, para. 7), namely:

(a) Identification of the principal potential units, particularly networks;

(b) A pilot, in-depth survey evaluation of the potential units in a particular region and subregion;

(c) Replication of the pilot survey and evaluation of units in other regions and subregions.

In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated will include governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and other private sector entities.

Pursuant to the proposed programme of work outlined above, the Conference of the Parties, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology, requires the contractor to carry out the preliminary survey and evaluation of potential units, particularly existing networks and to suggest a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases, for consideration at the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

2. Tasks expected to be completed by the contractor

(a) Identify the principal existing networks relevant to the effort to combat desertification and their role in areas such as information collection and exchange, research, technology transfer, benchmarks and indicators, capacity-building, policy formulation and local-level activities;

(b) Describe the actual components (including structure, mode of operation and willingness and capacity to contribute to the work of the Convention) as well as categories of users, and map their geographical distribution;

(c) Enumerate the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provision of articles 16 to 19 of the Convention;

(d) Identify and describe the linkages among the principal networks, including gaps and possible overlaps;

(e) Elaborate the purposes, methods and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels;

(f) Develop criteria by which institutions, agencies and networks will be evaluated in terms of their capacity and effectiveness in contributing to the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Suggest:

(i) Methods and candidate regions and subregions for in-depth pilot surveys;

(ii) A practical cost-effective methodology to permit the Committee on Science and Technology to update the inventory of networks on a regular basis;

(iii) A strategy by which a global network of networks, institutions, agencies and bodies can be established for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Convention.

Contract

Within the framework of these terms of reference, the head of the Convention Secretariat is authorized to conclude a contract with the organization or organizations chosen to complete the work in accordance with its or their proposal. The contract shall provide for the work to start once sufficient funds for the completion of the work have been received in accordance with the decision of the Conference of the Parties for the amount specified in the proposal. The contract shall contain such other terms and conditions, including for the supervision of the contract and the mode of payment, as the head of the Convention Secretariat shall consider appropriate.

Decision 24/COP.1

Organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties (COP), in accordance with article 21, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, shall:

(a) identify, at its first ordinary session an organization to house the Global Mechanism established under article 21, paragraph 4, of the Convention;

(b) agree with the organization it has identified upon the modalities for the Global Mechanism; and

(c) make, at its first session, appropriate arrangements with the organization it has identified to house the Global Mechanism for the administrative operations of such Mechanism, drawing to the extent possible on existing budgetary and human resources,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (INCD) regarding the functions of the Global Mechanism, and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it, as reflected in Appendix I of document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Committee's decision 10/3, taken at the first part of its tenth session, with the amendment contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add.1,

Recalling decision 10/18 of the INCD, taken at its resumed tenth session, which, inter alia:

(a) requests the COP at its first session to consider the offers of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including any suggestions they deem necessary, and to take appropriate action on the matters related to the selection of an institution to house the Global Mechanism; and

(b) requests the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention, in consultation with IFAD and UNDP, to develop proposals on administrative and operational modalities of the Global Mechanism for consideration and adoption by the COP at its first session,

Noting with appreciation the revised offer of IFAD to house the Global Mechanism, contained in Appendix II of document ICCD/COP(1)/5, as supplemented by document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.3, prepared in response to operative paragraph 1 of INCD decision 10/18,

Also noting with appreciation the revised offer of UNDP to house the Global Mechanism, contained in Appendix III of document ICCD/COP(1)/5, as supplemented by document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.2, prepared in response to operative paragraph 1 of INCD decision 10/18,

Noting further document ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add.2/Rev.1, which contains proposals developed by the Permanent Secretariat, in consultation with IFAD and UNDP regarding the administrative and operational modalities of the Global Mechanism,

1. Decides to select IFAD to house the Global Mechanism on the basis of criteria agreed on in Section B of the Annex to INCD decision 10/3;

2. Decides also that the Global Mechanism, in carrying out its mandate, under the authority and guidance of the COP, should perform the functions described in the annex to this decision;

3. Requests the Permanent Secretariat, in consultation with the organization to house the Global Mechanism, as well as the other two collaborating institutions referred to in decision 25/COP.1, to develop a memorandum of understanding between the COP and appropriate body or organization for consideration and adoption at the second session of the COP;

4. Requests also the Permanent Secretariat and the organization housing the Global Mechanism, in consultation with the two other collaborating institutions, in developing the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 3 above, to take fully into account document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and other related documents, including document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, to address, inter alia, the following:

(a) the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the housing organization;

(b) the measures to be taken to assure full accountability and full reporting to the COP;

(c) the field office support available for Global Mechanism activities;

(d) the administrative infrastructure available to support the Global Mechanism; and

(e) arrangements for the handling of resources made available for Global Mechanism functioning and activities;

5. Further requests the organization housing the Global Mechanism and the Permanent Secretariat to work out appropriate arrangements for liaison and cooperation between the Permanent Secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles in implementation;

6. Invites relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks, as well as interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism.

7. Urges Governments and all interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make promptly the voluntary contributions necessary to ensure that the Global Mechanism can begin operating on 1 January 1998 on the basis of Section A of Appendix 1 of document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and continue effective operations on the basis of the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 3 above after its adoption by the second session of the COP;

8. Reiterates that, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention, the COP shall, at its third ordinary session, review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of this review, shall consider and take appropriate action.

ANNEX

FUNCTIONS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, a global mechanism is established to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular articles 7, 20 and 21, and the financial provisions of relevant regional implementation annexes, the global mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties, including on policies, operational modalities and activities, and be accountable and make regular reports to it, according to the principles of transparency, neutrality and universality. The global mechanism, in carrying out its mandate under article 21, paragraph 4, should perform the following functions:

I. Collecting and disseminating information

(a) Identify potential sources of financing from bilateral donors, the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional and subregional financial mechanisms, and non-governmental organizations, foundations and other private sector entities, and establish relationships and maintain contacts with them;

(b) Establish and update an inventory of the financial needs of affected developing country Parties for carrying out action programmes, as well as other relevant activities related to the implementation of the Convention, on the basis of information provided under relevant articles of the Convention;

(c) Identify and draw up an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes and available financial resources in the form of a comprehensive database, incorporating information both from Parties and from various financial mechanisms, comprising:

(i) Sources of available financing through bilateral and multilateral agencies, including their funding patterns and eligibility criteria, using reports to the Conference of the Parties by Parties and all other available data;

(ii) Sources of financing from non-governmental organizations, foundations, academic institutions and other private sector entities that might be encouraged to provide funding, including their funding patterns and eligibility criteria;

(iii) National funding in affected country Parties to finance actions designed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought;

(d) Disseminate information collected in accordance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) to Parties on a regular basis and make it available, on request, to interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2 Analyzing and advising on request

(a) Promote the matching of available resources to the projects and programmes of affected developing countries related to combating desertification, including assisting them to find new and additional resources for the implementation of the Convention

(b) Analyze and provide advice on sources of financial assistance and on mechanisms to channel resources to the local, national and subregional levels, including through non-governmental organizations and private sector entities

(c) Provide advice on the establishment, financing and management of national desertification funds

(d) Identify, promote and provide advice about innovative methods and incentives for mobilizing and channelling resources

3 Promoting actions leading to cooperation and coordination

(a) Disseminate information it collects so as to facilitate the assessment of, and exchange of information on, the effectiveness of financial assistance, including its accessibility, predictability, flexibility, quality and local-level orientation

(b) Provide identified United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and multilateral financial institutions, with information and stimulate coordination among them, including in multiple-source financing

(c) Encourage, and facilitate coordination through the provision of information and other measures concerning relevant multiple-source financing approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, such as co-financing, parallel financing, consortia and joint programmes

(d) Increase awareness of the Convention, and promote the participation in its implementation, of identified foundations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other private sector entities and facilitate contacts with them by interested Parties, in order to contribute to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources

(e) Provide information, making use of the Conference of the Parties and other relevant existing forums, that will:

(i) Facilitate discussion of relevant issues in the governing bodies of multilateral financial institutions;

(ii) Inform Parties about the eligibility criteria and projects of international financial instruments and mechanisms, including particularly the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as they relate to implementation of the Convention;

(iii) Inform affected country Parties about each other's relevant activities,

(iv) Disseminate methodologies developed by Parties to identify and prioritize the financial needs of action programmes at all levels,

(v) Promote full use and continued improvement of the funding sources to be utilized for the implementation of the Convention referred to in relevant articles of the Convention.

(f) Identify and then provide information and advice on financing sources for the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought.

(g) Promote partnership building as it relates to the support of the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Convention at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

(h) Facilitate the financing of information exchange on best practices utilized in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought at the local level in affected developing country Parties.

4. Mobilizing and channelling financial resources

(a) Promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of financial resources to all levels in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

(b) Undertake actions and/or activities, in partnership particularly with developed country Parties, and relevant institutions, that shall, consistent with the Convention, mobilize and maximize for the purpose of the Convention adequate and substantial financial resources, including, as agreed in the Convention, new and additional resources, on a grant or, if necessary, concessional basis, to fund activities under action programmes of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, at all levels in conformity with the Convention and with the particular conditions of the regions of relevant regional implementation annexes.

(c) Promote the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements that mobilize and channel substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(d) Undertake actions and/or activities for the mobilization of adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility of the agreed incremental costs of those activities concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the instrument establishing the Global Environment Facility.

(e) Guide and direct, as requested and as appropriate, the channelling and allocation of resources mobilized for the purpose of the Convention from bilateral and multilateral sources through the host, and other organizations in an adequate, predictable and timely fashion to local, national, subregional and regional levels for the implementation of action programmes, projects and activities to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought in affected developing country Parties, particularly in Africa.

(f) Use, as requested and appropriate, its own resources made available to it through trust fund(s) and/or equivalent arrangements established by the host organization for the Global Mechanism's functioning and activities, as defined in this annex, from bilateral and multilateral sources through the host organization and from the budget of the Convention.

(g) Encourage, in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties, the provision, through various mechanisms within the United Nations system and through multilateral financial institutions, of support at the national, subregional and regional levels to activities that enable developing country Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention.

(h) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing financial mechanisms and collaborate with them to facilitate and catalyse the mobilization and channelling by them of adequate and substantial financial resources, including new and additional resources, for implementation of the Convention.

(i) Play, among other functions, a catalytic role, in ensuring the availability of resources for project and programme design and implementation from bilateral and multilateral sources.

(j) Promote and facilitate, through the actions in paragraphs (a) to (i):

(i) The transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies, knowledge, know-how and practices relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries, in conformity with the Convention.

(ii) The use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and technologies, as well as local expertise, at all levels in affected developing countries.

5. Reporting to the Conference of the Parties

(a) Provide reports to the sessions of the Conference of the Parties on its activities, including in those reports the following:

(i) The operations and activities of the global mechanism, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources referred to in paragraph 4 (a) above to affected developing country Parties;

(ii) The assessment of future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as assessment and proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds.

Decision 25/COP.1

Collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Having examined decision 10/18 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (INCD), taken at its resumed tenth session, which, inter alia, invites the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank to consult on and develop a proposal on the possible collaborative institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism for submission to, consideration by and appropriate action by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its first session,

Welcoming, as an important element in the successful functioning of the Global Mechanism, the agreement of IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank on collaborative institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism, as reflected in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, annexed to this decision,

1. Decides that this agreement shall serve as the initial basis for collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism by the three organizations;

2. Decides also that, in carrying out the functions of the Global Mechanism, in accordance with its decision 24/COP.1, the organization to house the Global Mechanism shall, as the lead organization, fully cooperate with the other two institutions that entered into the collaborative institutional arrangements described in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1;

3. Urges the three institutions concerned to proceed with the arrangements proposed in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, including the establishment of a facilitation committee, and requests the three institutions to actively pursue and develop further those arrangements and report to the second session of the COP;

4. Invites relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks, as well as interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism, as contemplated in paragraph 5 of the annex to document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1 and, in this connection, to establish and/or strengthen programmes to combat desertification in affected developing countries;

5. Requests the organization housing the Global Mechanism to report to the second session of the COP on modalities regarding collaboration between itself and the NGO community, as well as collaboration with other interested organizations, including the private sector.

ANNEX

COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 19 SEPTEMBER 1997

I Context

1. Operative paragraph 3 of the INCD 10 Resumed Session decision on the housing of the Global Mechanism (GM) invited IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank to "consult on and develop a proposal on the possible collaborative institutional arrangement for the Global Mechanism for submission to, consideration and appropriate action by the COP at its first session".

2. Designated representatives of IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank met at IFAD headquarters in Rome on 18–19 September to discuss their response to the above invitation of the INCD. The following was agreed.

II The Global Mechanism

3. The three institutions share the view that the objective of the Global Mechanism is to increase the flow of resources for CCD implementation, while increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms.

4. In order to serve Parties effectively in meeting the Convention's financial provisions, the three institutions based their proposal on the following principles as embodied in the spirit of the CCD:

- demand-driven but also pro-actively responsive to the needs and priorities of Parties,
- oriented towards issues of finance (including for the transfer of technology),
- non-duplicative of existing mechanisms and facilities, but adding value to these,
- non-monopolistic, and geared towards promoting multi-source, multi-channel financing,
- highly flexible in operations, responding to emerging opportunities,
- lean and efficient, drawing on other institutions, including its housing institution, to the extent possible, as well as access to the United Nations system-wide capacities and facilities, in particular the Office of the Resident Coordinator,
- neutrality and universality will form the basis for the operations of the GM,
- the GM would have access to resources, through its host and other organizations, as outlined in paragraph 4(e) of INCD negotiating text on the functions of GM, and
- the administrative and operating budget of the GM would be financed by the COP.

III. Support for the Global Mechanism

5. The three institutions recognize that the Global Mechanism would need to draw on the support of a large number of relevant organizations. This would include IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank as well as Regional Development Banks, FAO, WFP, UNEP and other organizations, including NGOs.

6. The World Bank, while not seeking to house the GM, would actively support the GM. Regardless of whether IFAD or UNDP house the GM, and without prejudging the nature of any collaborative institutional arrangement, the three institutions would at least support the CCD and the GM in the ways outlined below.

General

7. IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank would establish a "Facilitation Committee" for the GM, to coordinate support from the three institutions, comprised initially of focal points to be designated by each institution. The functions and scope of the work of this committee would be developed by the three institutions in consultation with the institution housing the GM and the Head of the GM.

8. The three institutions will endeavour to ensure that the GEF would develop projects that address desertification, as it relates to GEF focal areas. In this context: (i) the respective focal points for GM matters within the World Bank and UNDP, as GEF Implementing Agencies, and IFAD would support the GM entity to explore possibilities for new and additional funds from GEF for CCD activities; (ii) co-financing or parallel funding arrangements with GEF funded dryland related activities would be pursued by all three institutions; and (iii) it is strongly recommended that GM be granted observer status with GEF Council.

The World Bank

9. The World Bank would support the GM, housed by IFAD and/or UNDP, as follows:

(a) The Bank through its Drylands Knowledge Node would support the GM by generating and disseminating information and knowledge on technical issues and financial resource information flows;

(b) The Bank would integrate appropriate drylands management policies in its Environmental Sector Work and Country Assistance Strategies and use these in its ongoing dialogue with affected countries to internalize drylands management issues within the countries' economic development programmes, and thus bring them forward for financing in the Bank's active portfolio and other donors' support;

(c) The Bank would participate in high-level meetings with IFAD and UNDP to facilitate activities of the GM, and provide advice and support; and

(d) The Bank would establish an institutional focal point to liaise with the GM, and with IFAD and UNDP on GM issues.

IFAD

10. IFAD's offer to house the Global Mechanism is contained in ICCD/COP(1)/5. Notwithstanding what it would offer if selected as housing institution, IFAD would nevertheless support the GM as follows:

(a) IFAD would seek to achieve optimal convergence between its financial assistance for poverty alleviation in the drylands and Affected Country priorities under the Convention;

(b) IFAD would participate in high-level meetings with UNDP and the World Bank to facilitate activities of the GM, and provide advice and support; and

(c) IFAD would establish an institutional focal point to liaise with the GM and with UNDP and the World Bank on GM issues.

UNDP

11. UNDP's offer to house the Global Mechanism is contained in ICCD/COP(1)/5. Notwithstanding what it would offer if selected as housing institution, UNDP would nevertheless support the GM as follows:

(a) Provide technical backstopping to National Action Programme (NAP)/Sub-regional Action Programme (SRAP) process;

(b) Provide technical backstopping to National Desertification Fund (NDF) establishment;

(c) Continue its work on Drought Preparedness and Mitigation (DPM), Environmental Information System (EIS)/Desertification Information System (DIS) and indicators, including monitoring and assessment linked appropriately to the work of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST);

(d) Continue its work on special thematic initiatives (water management, women, NGO participation, advocacy on drylands);

(e) Continue to mobilize seed/catalytic resources through UNDP Trust Fund for the above activities;

(f) Continue to support activities for combating drought and desertification through UNDP core and non-core system;

(g) UNDP would participate in high-level meetings with IFAD and the World Bank to facilitate activities of the GM, and provide advice and support; and

(h) UNDP would establish an institutional focal point to liaise with the GM, and with IFAD and the World Bank on GM issues.

IV. Specific Features of Collaborative Institutional Arrangements for the GM

12. The selection of the head of GM would take place through consultation between the President of IFAD and the Administrator of UNDP, keeping the President of the World Bank informed.

13. The GM would operate according to the modus operandi and procedures agreed upon in harmony with those of the GM housing institution.

14. The Administrator of UNDP and the President of IFAD would meet periodically, to agree on strategies for implementing the CCD and to harmonize their support for the work of the GM. This process would involve the President of the World Bank, as appropriate.

15. At the request of the GM, the three institutions may establish ad hoc task forces to develop ideas and work on specific issues, particularly innovative resource mobilization approaches, to help the GM entity in its work. Other organizations, including NGOs, would be associated.

16. The three institutions would advise and support the GM in developing its operational strategy, work programme and budget through the facilitation committee (referred to above).

17. The GM would report to the COP through the Head of the Housing Organization.

18. The GM would report to the COP on its activities and would also cover, in consolidated fashion, the support it receives from the three institutions and others.

V. Additional Considerations Involving IFAD-UNDP

19. It is agreed that whether UNDP or IFAD houses the GM in-depth consultations between the two agencies would be held on a number of areas that would require substantive collaboration in support of GM. This would include in particular:

(a) Consultation and agreement on the preparation and implementation on a strategic plan for collection and collation of information and its transformation into knowledge for all stakeholders, taking into account respective institutional comparative advantage;

(b) The role of the GM in relation to the role of collaborating institutions in actual project and programme development and implementation; and

(c) The possibility of drawing on existing initiatives and arrangements such as the CGIAR and NARs, and the work of the inter-agency working group on environmental funds in facilitating the work of the GM.

VI. Lead Institution Approach

20. Taking the above into account, and considering the important role that the three institutions can play in supporting the GM, it is proposed to consider support for the GM as a collaborative arrangement drawing upon the comparative advantages and commitment, as specified above, of the three institutions to the GM and the CCD process. However, in the interest of streamlining accountability, the COP may wish to select either IFAD or UNDP to assume a lead role and the responsibility for housing the GM.

Decision 26/COP.1

Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 7, of the Convention,

Noting rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, which provides that any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, that is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and that has informed the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object,

Noting also that such rule 7 also provides that such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object,

Decides:

(a) To accredit to the first session of the Conference of the Parties the non-governmental organizations previously accredited to sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as listed in annex I to the present decision;

(b) To accredit to the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties those additional non-governmental organizations that the Permanent Secretariat may recommend for accreditation, as listed in annex I to the present decision;

(c) In deciding on the accreditation of additional non-governmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall take account of decisions 1/1 and 2/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations as adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first and second sessions (A/45/46, annex I and A/46/48, annex I). Non-governmental organizations so accredited may participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) To accord observer status at the first session of the Conference of the Parties to all interested intergovernmental organizations previously accorded such status at sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as listed in annex II to the present decision;

(e) In deciding on according observer status to additional intergovernmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall bear in mind the established practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Organizations accorded such status may participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCREDITED TO THE FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. Action for Development (AFORD), Mauritius
2. ACTIONAID, United Kingdom
3. Actions pour la Lutte Contre la Desertification au Sahel - ALUDES, Niger
4. Actions pour le Développement Rural Intégré, Niger
5. DRINOK-Centre d'Appui au Développement Rural Intégre du Nord-Kivu, Rwanda
6. Africa Harvest Mission, Nigeria
7. African Association for Literacy and Adult Education, Kenya
8. African Association of Development Education, Togo
9. African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya
10. African Forum For Mathematical Ecology, Ethiopia
11. Afrique Environnementale (AE), Centre Africain de Protection Environnementale et pour l'Assistance, Ivory Coast
12. Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, Egypt
13. Agricultural and Environmental Development Foundation, Sri Lanka
14. Agro-Galliness Farm, Sierra Leone
15. Aide au Sahel, Mali
16. AKSS, India
17. Al Nasser Ladies Center, Jordan
18. All Africa Students Union (AASU), Ghana
19. All Pakistan Youth Federation, Pakistan
20. Amazon'India, France
21. Amicale des Forestieres du Burkina Faso, Burkina Faso
22. Amigos de la Tierra, Spain
23. Amigos de la Tierra (Friends of the Earth Spain), Spain
24. Arab Office for Youth & Environment, The (AOYE), Egypt
25. Arab Urban Development Institute, Saudi Arabia
26. Arusha Dicoesan Development Office, Tanzania
27. Asociacion de Derecho Ambiental de la Region Inka, Peru
28. Asociacion Ecologista de Defensa de la Naturaleza (AEDENAT), Spain
29. Asociacion Los Algarrobos, Argentina
30. Asociacion Mexicana de Uniones de Credito del Sector Social A.C., Mexico
31. Asociacion Vida Sana, Spain
32. Asociacion Kunas Unidos Por Nabguana (KUNA), Panama
33. Association Congolaise du Froid, Congo
34. Association de Cooperation et de Recherches pour le Developpement (ACORD), Mali
35. Association de Formation et d'Appui au Developpement (AFAD), Mali
36. Association de Reflexion d'Echanges et d'Action pour l'Environnement et le Developpement (AREA-ED), Algeria
37. Association de Sauvegarde pour le Developpement Economique et Social (A.S.D.E.S.), Togo
38. Association des Amis de la Nature et de l'Environnement, Guinee

39. Association des Bacheliers pour l'Emploi et le Développement, Senegal
40. Association des Femmes Africaines pour la Recherche sur le Developpement (AFARD CAMEROUN), Cameroon
41. Association des Jeunes Pour l'Education et le Développement (A J E D), Senegal
42. Association des Personnes Promotrices des Initiatives Paysannes, Benin
43. Association des Volontaires pour le Développement (A V D), Burkina Faso
44. Association Développement Durable, Mauritania
45. Association for Rural and Environment Care (AREC), Bangladesh
46. Association for the Promotion of Appropriate, Socially and Environmentally Adapte Technologies, c/o German Working Group on Desertification, Germany
47. Association For Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA), India
48. Association Française d'Amitié et de Solidarité avec les Peuples d'Afrique-AFASPA, Franc
49. Association Guinée pour la Promotion des énergies renouvelables (AGUIPER), Guinee
50. Association Internationale des Femmes Francophones, Mauritania
51. Association Internationale Six "S", Burkina Faso
52. Association Jeunesse Populaire, Morocco
53. Association Malienne des Amis du Sahel, Mali
54. Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de Son Environnement 'AMCFE Mali
55. Association Malienne pour la Promotion du Sahel, Mali
56. Association Malienne pour le Developpement (AMADE), Mali
57. Association Malienne pour la Protection et le Développement de l'Environnement au Sahe (AMPRODE/SAHEL), Mali
58. Association Malienne Pour La Protection de L'Environnement "Stop-Sahel", Mali
59. Association Nationale "IBN-AL-AWAM", Algeria
60. Association Nationale d'Action Rurale (ANAR), Burkina Faso
61. Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO), Gambia
62. Association of Women in Development Experts (AWIDE), Ghana
63. Association Orukutuku, Benin
64. Association Peuples Culture Developpement, Togo
65. Association pour la Promotion des Batwa (ASBL), Rwanda
66. Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK) Tunisia
67. Association pour la Defense et la Protection du Patrimoine Local (ADEPPAL), Congo
68. Association pour la Santé de la Mere du Nouveau-né et de L'Enfant, Togo
69. Association pour la Protection de la Nature (A P N Sahel), Burkina Faso
70. Association pour la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement et le Developpement (ASED), Benin
71. Association pour la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Martiniquais, Martinique
72. Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et de Bien-Etre Social (APEBES), Togo
73. Association pour le Développement des Techniques Agroecologiques (ADTAE), Burkina Faso
74. Association pour le Développement et la Formation des Jeunes et des Femmes su l'Environnement, Rwanda
75. Association Sahel Nature, Burkina Faso
76. Association Togolaise pour la Promotion Humaine (A T P H), Togo

77. Association Tunisienne Pour la Protection de la Nature et de L'Environnement (ATPNE), Tunisia
78. Australian Conservation Foundation, Australia
79. Australian Council For Overseas Aid, Australia
80. Bawadina Rural Women Development Society, Sudan
81. Benin "21", Benin
82. Bhoruka Charitable Trust, India
83. Bina Swadaya - Community Self Reliance Development Agency, Indonesia
84. Bohumukhi Milon Shangha, Bangladesh
85. Bombay Natural History Society, India
86. Both Ends, Netherlands
87. Botswana Technology Centre, Botswana
88. Brain-Work of Budlet Community, Bangladesh
89. Brot fur die Welt, Germany
90. CARE - International, Ethiopia
91. Carrefour Sahel, Mali
92. CATIE Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center, Costa Rica
93. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), United States of America
94. Centre Africain d'Assistance de Protection de l'Environnement au Sahel, Senegal
95. Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches des Initiatives pour le Developpement Agricole & Artisanal, Benin
96. Centre de Recherche et D'information pour le Développement (CRID), France
97. Centre de Suivi Ecologique, Senegal
98. Centre for Action-Oriented Research on African Development (CARAD), Cameroon
99. Centre for Alternative Development Strategies - CADS, Sierra Leone
100. Centre for Our Common Future, Switzerland
101. Centre for Overseas Research and Development (CORD), United Kingdom
102. Centre for Science and Environment, India
103. Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Application (CENESTA), Iran
104. Centre International de Droit Compare de l'Environnement, France
105. Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement Rural (CEDER), Cameroon
106. Centro Andino de Investigacion y Desarrollo, Peru
107. Centro de Experimentacion y Capacitacion en Tecnologia Apropidada (TEKHNE), Chile
108. Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Creation, Cameroon
109. Christian Aid, United Kingdom
110. Christian Care, Zimbabwe
111. Christian Service Committee of the Churches in Malawi, Malawi
112. CIDECO - Centro de Investigacion y difusion Ecologica y Cultural de Otavalo, Ecuador
113. Climate Network Africa, Kenya
114. Club des Amis de la Nature et la Protection de l'Environnement, Mauritania
115. Club des Prospecteurs de l'Or Vert (CLUPOV), Chad
116. Collectif d'Actions pour le Développement Intégré dans les Communautés en Sigle "CADIC", Burundi
117. Collectif des Organisations Non Gouvernementales Actives en Cote D'Ivoire (CONGACI), Cote d'Ivoire
118. Comite de Coordination des Actions des ONG au Mali CCA-ONG, Mali

119. Comite Français Contre la Faim, France
120. Comité d'Appui pour la Promotion dans le Sahel (CAPROS), Mali
121. Comité de Santé et de Développement de Birava, Zaire
122. Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora CODEFF, Chile
123. Communities Forestry and Social Development Organisation, Ghana
124. CONGAC - Confédération des ONG d'Environnement et de Développement de l'Afrique Centrale, Cameroun
125. Conseil des Organisations Non-Governmentales d'Appui au Développement (CONGAD), Senegal
126. Consejo Andino de Manejo Ecológico, Peru
127. Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique des Mascarin, Ile de la Reunion
128. Consultation-recherch-Educatoin en Environnement pour un Développement Durable en Afrique (CREDA), Togo
129. Contribution au Developpement Rural (ONG-CDR), Niger
130. Coopérative D'Agriculture et D'Elevage de Reboisement de Bareina, Mauritania
131. Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni non governative per la Cooperazione Internazionale allo Sviluppo (COCIS), Italy
132. Coordination in Development, Inc (CODEL), United States Of America
133. Council For Human Ecology-Kenya (CHEK), Kenya
134. Council of Swaziland Churches, Swaziland
135. Country Women Association of Nigeria, Nigeria
136. DARNA, Chad
137. DESCO/Centro de Estudios y Promocion del Desarrollo, Peru
138. Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, Namibia
139. Detmac Associates, Cameroon
140. Development Alternatives Network, Kenya
141. Development Centre International, Bangladesh
142. Development Group, India
143. Disaster Mitigation Institute, India
144. Earth Search, Nigeria
145. Earthaction Network, United Kingdom
146. EarthAction Network - Regional Office, Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile
147. Earthcare Africa Monitoring Institute, Kenya
148. Ecociencia, Fundacion Ecuatoriana de Estudios Ecológicos, Ecuador
149. Ecological Movement of Kyrgyzstan "Aleyne", Bishkek
150. EcoNews Africa, Kenya
151. EcoPeace, Israel
152. Egerton University, Kenya
153. Emmaus International Association, France
154. Enda Inter-Arabe, Tunisia
155. ENDA-Maghreb, Morocco
156. Energies-Eau-Environnement pour le Developpement, Cameroon
157. Entreprenariat Developpement Environnement Nutrition (EDEN), Togo
158. Environment & Development Society of Ethiopia, The (LEM), Ethiopia
159. Environment and Development Resource (EDRC), Belgium
160. Environment Development Society, India

161. Environment Liaison Centre International, Kenya
162. Environment Protection and Devlopment Centre, India
163. Environment Protection Association of Ghana, Ghana
164. Environment Society of Chandigarh, India
165. Environmental Defense Fund, United States of America
166. Environmental Monitoring Group, South Africa
167. Environmental Policy and Society (EPOS), Sweden
168. Environmentalista Society, Sudan
169. Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA-TM), Senegal
170. Espoir, Mauritania
171. Esquel Group Foundation, United States of America
172. European Environmental Bureau, Belgium
173. Favdo - Forum for African Voluntary Development Organizations, Senegal
174. Fédération des Associations du Fouta pour le Développement - FAFD, Senegal
175. Fédération des Associations des Parents d'Elèves du Cameroun, Cameroun
176. Fédération des ONG au Togo (FONGTO), Togo
177. Felege Guihon International, Switzerland
178. Femme - Jeunesse - Environnement - Santé (FEMJES), Niger
179. Fondation Centrafricaine pour la Sauvegarde des Ressources, FOCSARENA, Central African Republic
180. Fondation des Amis de la Nature (NATURAMA), Burkina Faso
181. Fondation du Léman, Switzerland
182. Fondation Paix et Developpement, Senegal
183. Fondation René Dumont, Senegal
184. Forest Resources Environment Development & Conservation Association (FREDA), Myanmar
185. Forum Maghrébin pour l'Environnement et le Développement, Morocco
186. ForUM - The Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development, Norway
187. Friends of the Environment and Development Association, Egypt
188. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)/Quakers, United States of America
189. Fundaçao Grupo Esquel Brasil, Brasil
190. Fundacion Ambiente Y Recursos Naturales (FARN), Argentina
191. Fundacion Del Sur, Argentina
192. Fundacion Ecologica "Mazan", Ecuador
193. Fundacion Habitat & Desarrollo, Argentina
194. Fundacion Hernandiana, Argentina
195. Fundacion Patagonia Natural, Argentina
196. Fundacion San Gregorio de Protoiviejo, Ecuador
197. Fundación Alma, Colombia
198. Fundación para el Desarrollo en Justicia y Paz, Argentina
199. Fundación Pro-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia
200. Fundación Rio Parnaiba, Brazil
201. Gandhivan, India
202. Gania Unnayan Committee, India
203. GECOU Research Group, United Kingdom
204. German Advisory Council on Global Change, Germany

205. Gia-Nabio Agro-Forestry Development Organisation, Ghana
206. Gilma Youngsters, Ghana
207. Good Social Work Centre, India
208. Green Cross International (GCI), Switzerland
209. Green Earth Organization (GEO), Ghana
210. Green Environment Movement, Nigeria
211. Green Forum for Development, Ghana
212. GreenLife Society - North American Chapter, United States of America
213. Groupe de Recherces et D'applications Techniques (GRAT), Mali
214. Groupe de Recherche Action pour la Promotion Economique et Sociale (GRAPES), Mali
215. Groupement D'Appui aux Initiatives Economiques des Femmes, Mali
216. Groupement des Aides Prives, Niger
217. Groupement des Retraités Éducateurs sans Frontières, France
218. Grupo de Estudios Ambientales A.C., Mexico
219. Guamina, Mali
220. Guinee Ecologie, Guinee
221. Haribon Foundation, Philippines
222. Henry Doubleday Research Association, United Kingdom
223. Hope for Women, Ethiopia
224. Human Settlements of Zambia (HUZA), Zambia
225. ICEF - International Court of the Environment, Italy
226. Imo Youth Network Programme, Nigeria
227. INAFORM, Yemen
228. India Community Development Service Society, India
229. Indian Committee of Youth Organisations (ICYO), India
230. Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (INADES-Formation), Burkina Faso
231. Institut de Recherche sur l'Environnement (IREC), France
232. Institut Mariam Diallo, Mauritania
233. Institute for Development Anthropology, United States of America
234. Institute of Development Studies, India
235. Institute of Training Concern, Bangladesh
236. Instituto de Investigacion Y Desarrollo Comunal "La Libertad", Trujillo, Peru
237. Instituto de Investigacion de Zonas Deserticas de la Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi, Mexico
238. Instituto de Pre-Historia, Antropologia e Ecologia (IPHAE), Brazil
239. Instituto per le relazioni tra l'Italia e i Paesi dell'Africa, America Latina e Medio Oriente (IPALMO), Italy
240. Interdisciplinary Center for Technological Analysis and Forecasting, Israel
241. Intermediate Technology, Kenya
242. International Academy of the Environment, Switzerland
243. International Campaign for Freedom and Peace, Benin
244. International Catholic Organisation for Cinema and Audiovisual (OCIC), Italy
245. International Central Asian Biodiversity Institute (BIOSTAN), Uzbekistan
246. International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Kenya
247. International Chamber of Commerce, United States of America

248. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, India
249. International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Belgium
250. International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), France
251. International Federation of University Women (IFUW), Switzerland
252. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), United Kingdom
253. International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Philippines
254. International Juridical Organisation for Environment and Development, Italy
255. International Organization for World Peace Disarmanent Development and World Human Rights, United States of America
256. International Peace Research Association, Switzerland
257. International Soil Reference and Information Centre, Netherlands
258. International Synergy Institute, United States of America
259. International Youth and Student Movement for the UN (ISMUN), Switzerland
260. Islamic Relief Association (ISRA), Gambia
261. Jagruthi Society, India
262. Jana Seva Parisad, India
263. Jeunesse Pionniere Rurale, Togo
264. Jeunesse Sans Frontières (JEUSAF), Cameroon
265. Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), Tanzania
266. Karnataka Welfare Society (KWALITY), India
267. Kelansar Vikas Samiti (KVS), India
268. KENGO Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations, Kenya
269. Kenya Consumers' Organization, Kenya
270. Kenya Volunteer Development Services, Kenya
271. Kerala Sastra Sahithya Parishad, India
272. Kindernothilfe (KNH), Germany
273. KWIA Support Group For Indigenous Peoples, Belgium
274. La Colombe, Togo
275. Laboratoire de Geographie Physique Zonale, France
276. Law and Environment Eurasia Partnership (LEEP), Uzbekistan
277. League for Pastoral Peoples, Germany
278. Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center Inc., Philippines
279. Les Amis de la Terre, Togo
280. Les Amis de la Terre (AMITERD), Djibouti
281. Les Amis de la Terre, Benin
282. Lesotho Council of NGOs, Lesotho
283. Liga de Defensa Del Medio Ambiente (LIDEMA), Bolivia
284. Ligue de Lutte Contre le Sous-Developpement, Mali
285. Lutheran World Federation, Switzerland
286. Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation, Kenya
287. Mauritius Council of Social Service, Mauritius
288. MED-FORUM, Spain
289. Meteo-Ambiente - Associazione Culturale, Italy
290. MIO-ECSDE. Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, Greece
291. Mission Sahel, Mali

292. MORABI - Associaçao de Apoio à Auto-Promoçao da Mulher no Desenvolvimento, Cape Verde
293. Mouvement d'Action pour le Renouveau Social, Togo
294. Mouvement Ecologique Algerien (MEA), Algeria
295. Movimiento Agroecologico Chileno, Chile
296. Movimiento Ambientalista Nicaraguense, Nicaragua
297. Movimondo Molisv, Italy
298. Nafa-Gonal, Guinee-Bissau
299. Namibia Development Trust, Namibia
300. National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Swaziland, Swaziland
301. Natural Heritage Institute, United States of America
302. Natural Resources Protection Group (NARP), Sudan
303. Naurzum - Non-governmental Ecological Organisation, Kazakstan
304. Ngara District Development Organisation, Tanzania
305. Nigerian Concerned Group for Environment Population and Development, Nigeria
306. Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST), Nigeria
307. NOMAD-AID, Djibouti
308. Novib, Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation , Netherlands
309. Office Africain pour le Developpement et la Coopération, Senegal
310. One World Now, United States of America
311. Organisation CentrAfricaine pour la Defense de la Nature, Central African Republic
312. Organisation d'Aide au Developpement, Guinee
313. Organisation Feminine pour le Developpement du Haut-Nkam (OR FE DE HN), Cameroun
314. Organisation Mauritanienne pour la Protection de l'Environnement et la Lutte Contre la Desertification, Mauritania
315. Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association, India
316. OXFAM, United Kingdom
317. PanAmerican-PanAfrican Association, United States of America
318. Partenaires de la Femme Malienne (PA FE M), Mali
319. Partnership Management and Support Program, Cameroon
320. Pastoral & Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), United Kingdom
321. Peace Trust, India
322. Pentecost Social Services , Ghana
323. People In Action, Gambia
324. Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, Philippines
325. Platform for Sustainable Development, Netherlands
326. Poor and Progress Assistance (PAPA), Bangladesh
327. Port Loko United Nations Students Association/Port Loko, Sierra Leone
328. Project Earth Action, Congo
329. Projektstelle Umwelt & Entwicklung, Germany
330. PROMETA - Protection del Medio Ambiente Tarija, Bolivia
331. Promo-Femmes/Developpement Sport, Burkina Faso
332. Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA), Albania
333. Proterra, Peru
334. Public Campaign on Environment and Development, Sri Lanka
335. PVO/NGO/NRMS (World Learning Inc), United States of America

336. Rajasthan Pradesh Bharat Sevak Samaj, India
337. Recherche, Appui et Formation aux Initiatives d'Auto-développement, Togo
338. REDES Friends of the Earth, Uruguay
339. Regroupement des Organismes Canada-Haitiens pour le Développement, Canada
340. Reseau d'Appui aux Initiatives Communautaires, Mali
341. Reseau D'Experts Volontaires (R.E.V), Cameroon
342. Réseau Africain pour le Développpement Integré (RADI), Senegal
343. Réseau Africain pour le Développement (RADEV), Ethiopia
344. Réseau d'Education pour le Développement en Coopération - REDEC, Guinee
345. Réseau de Développement d'Agriculture Durable (REDAD), Benin
346. Réseau International pour le Développement et l'Environnement à la Base (RIDEB - AFRIQUE), Benin
347. Restoration of Environment Against Distress (READ), Kenya
348. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom
349. Royal Geographical Society, United Kingdom
350. Rural Centre for Human Interests, India
351. Rural Development Foundation of Pakistan, Pakistan
352. Rural Women Environmental Protection Association, Cameroon
353. Sahabat Alam Malaysia - Friends of the Earth (Malaysia), Malaysia
354. Sahel Defis Développement Environment Formation Insertion Sociale, France
355. Sahel Solidarite, Burkina Faso
356. Sahel Vert, Burkina Faso
357. SAILD, Cameroon
358. SAPHTA, Niger
359. Save the Children, Burkina Faso
360. Saviya Development Foundation, Sri Lanka
361. School Dropout Services, Kenya
362. Secretariat de Concertation des ONG Maliennes (SECO-ONG/MALI), Mali
363. Secretariat Permanent des Organisations Non Gouvernementales (SPONG), Burkina Faso
364. Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India
365. Service Civil International (SCI), Bangladesh
366. Service Extension and Action Research for Communities in the Hills (SEARCH-NEPAL), Nepal
367. Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Pakistan
368. Sierra Leone Adult Education Association (SLADEA), Sierra Leone
369. Sindh Rural Women's Up-lift Group, Pakistan
370. SIYOTANKA, France
371. Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental, Peru
372. Societe Algerienne pour le Droit de l'Environnement, Algeria
373. Society for Conservation & Protection of Environment (SCOPE), Pakistan
374. Society for Rural Development (Gram Bharati Samiti), India
375. Socio-Ecological Union, Russia Federation
376. Solagral, France
377. Solar Cookers International, United States of America
378. Solidarite Humaine, Togo
379. Solidarité Canada Sahel, Canada

380. Solidarité pour le Sahel (SOLISA), Mali
381. SOS Nature, Togo
382. SOS-Sahel International, France
383. South-South Solidarity, India
384. Southern Networks for Environment and Development, Kenya
385. Southern Youth and Students Organization, South India
386. SouthPanAfrican International, Togo
387. Sri Lanka Environment Congress, Sri Lanka
388. Sri Lanka Environment Journalists Forum, Sri Lanka
389. St. Xavier's Social Service Society, India
390. Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden
391. Sudanese Environment & Development Organization, Sudan
392. Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS), Sudan
393. Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC), Sudan
394. Sunyani Diocesan Development Office, Ghana
395. Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
396. Swaziland Farmer Development Foundation, Swaziland
397. Synergos Institute Inc., United States of America
398. Tanzania Environmental Society (TESO), Tanzania
399. Tanzania Tree Planting Foundation, Tanzania
400. Tarime Rural Development Trust Fund (TARDTF), Tanzania
401. Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), India
402. Terre des Hommes, France
403. Terre Vivante - Living Earth, Mauritanie
404. The Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone
405. The Together Foundation, United States of America
406. Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Italy
407. Third World Network, Malaysia
408. Thusano Lefatsheng, Botswana
409. Tree and Energy Conservation Programmes (TRENCOP), Uganda
410. Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, India
411. Trust For Transitional Action To Progress (TTAP), India
412. Trust-Help, India
413. Turkish Foundation for Combatting Erosion, Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA), Turkey
414. Uganda Association for Social Economic Progress, Uganda
415. Uganda Women Tree Planting Movement, Uganda
416. United Club, Bangladesh
417. United Nations Association in Canada, Canada
418. United Nations of Youth, Senegal
419. United Socio Economic Development & Research Programme (UNDARP), India
420. Universidad Internacional de Andalucia, Sede Antonio Machado - Centro Andaluz de Estudios para el Desarrollo Rural, Spain
421. Vent-Soleil-Environnement et Developpement (VESEDI), France
422. Vernot Environment, Colombia
423. Vihar Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, India

424 Voluntaires dans la Lutte Contre la Desertification et la Sécheresse - "VOLUDES", Guinea-Bissau
425 Vredeseilanden, Togo
426 Vuum Tree Planting & Nursery Society, Ghana
427 West and Central African Soil Science Association, Burkina Faso
428 Wilderness Society, Australia
429 Wildlife Clubs of Uganda, Uganda
430 Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, Kenya
431 Women for Sustainable Development, Tunisia
432 Women in Service Development Organisation and Management, Gambia
433 Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), United States of America
434 World Conservation Union, The (IUCN), Switzerland
435 World Council of Churches, Switzerland
436 World Federation of United Nations Associations, Switzerland
437 World Federation of Unesco Clubs, Centres and Associations, Maison de l'Unesco, France
438 World Organization of the Scout Movement - Africa Regional Office, Switzerland
439 World Resources Institute, United States of America
440 World Vision International, Switzerland
441 World Vision International, Senegal
442 World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA), Switzerland
443 Worldview International Foundation, Kenya
444 Worldwide Network, United States of America
445 Yonge Nawe Environmental Action Group, Swaziland
446 Young Women's Christian Association, Kenya
447 Youth and Environment Society, Bahrain
448 Youth for Action, India
449 Youth for Development and Cooperation (YDC), Netherlands
450 Zambia Alliance of Women, Zambia
451 Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD), Zambia
452 ZERO, Zimbabwe

Annex II

INTERESTED INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS AT SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

1. African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACPGS)
2. African Development Bank (ADB)
3. Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACTC)
4. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
5. Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
6. Asian African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC)
7. CAB International
8. Centre for Environment and Development, Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)
9. Commonwealth Secretariat
10. Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research/International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (CGIAR/ICRISAT)
11. Council of Europe
12. Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
13. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
14. League of Arab States
15. Organization of African Unity (OAU)
16. Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
17. Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
18. Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
19. Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
20. Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR)
21. Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of Soil (SARCCUS)
22. Southern African Development Community (SADC)
23. Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Decision 27/COP.1

Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the spirit of partnership set out in the third principle of the Convention to Combat Desertification, which states that:

> "the Parties should develop, in a spirit of partnership, cooperation among all levels of government, communities, non-governmental organizations and landholders to establish a better understanding of the nature and value of land and scarce water resources in affected areas to work towards their sustainable use",

Recalling that this principle is carried forward in the action focused sections of the Convention dealing with participation in planning and decision-making, funding, information and technology and capacity building, education and public awareness,

Noting that Article 10 of the Convention stipulates that National Action Programmes shall provide for effective participation of non-governmental organizations and local populations in all stages of the planning process and at all levels of decision-making,

Recognizing that in Article 21.1 (c) it is stipulated that "the Conference of the Parties shall consider for adoption, inter alia, approaches and policies that facilitate, as appropriate, mechanisms such as national desertification funds, including those involving the participation of non-governmental organizations, to channel financial resources rapidly and efficiently to the local level in affected developing country Parties",

Noting also that in Articles 16 (Information) and 18 (Technology) it is recognized that NGOs have access to important information; that they have built up relevant expertise and that they have developed channels to reach out to the target groups so that governments have agreed that they will engage in partnerships with NGOs to make full use of their expertise in the areas of information dissemination (Article 16) and the promotion of appropriate technology (Article 18.1), in particular technology that is based on traditional and local knowledge (Article 18.2 (a)),

Recognizing also that NGOs will have a major role in informing people at the community level and mobilizing community action. Therefore capacity building, education and public awareness are other areas in which partnership arrangements between governments and NGOs are essential,

1. Requests that additional open dialogue sessions organized by NGOs occur within the official programme of work of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties and that the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention make all efforts to facilitate inclusion of at least two half-day NGO sessions within the official programme of work;

2. Requests also that NGOs give further consideration to institutional mechanisms for reinforcing partnerships, north-south partnerships, relationships with multilateral agencies, research institutions and funding mechanisms, and partnerships at the community level, which draw on local knowledge and experience, gender issues in partnership building and other critical issues in the implementation of the CCD.

Decision 28/COP.1

Date and venue of the second session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985 and 51/180 of 16 December 1996,

1. Accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Senegal to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. Decides that the second session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Dakar from 24 August to 4 September 1998;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Senegal with a view to entering into satisfactory arrangements for that Government to host the Conference in Dakar and to meet the related costs.

Decision 29/COP.1

Credentials of representatives of Parties to the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report on credentials of the Bureau of the first session of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

Report of the Bureau

Introduction

1. In accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, "(t)he credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization."

2. Furthermore, rule 20 of the rules of procedure provides that "(t)he Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision".

3. The present report is submitted to the Conference of the Parties in the light of the foregoing.

Credentials of Parties to the first session of the Conference of the Parties

4. On 8 October 1997, the Bureau met to examine the credentials submitted by Parties to the Convention.

5. The Bureau had before it a memorandum dated 8 October 1997 from the Executive Secretary on the status of credentials of representatives participating in the Conference. The information in this memorandum is reflected below.

6. As noted in the memorandum of the Executive Secretary, formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 19 of the rules of procedure, had been received by the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention for the representatives of the following 76 Parties participating in the Conference: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, India, Italy, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Reublic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Zambia.

7. As of 8 October 1997, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs as provided for in rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, have been submitted by facsimile for the representatives of the following 9 Parties participating in the Conference: Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Greece, Luxembourg, Mali, Saint Lucia, Senegal and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. As noted further in the memorandum, information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the Conference had been communicated by means of facsimile in the form of letters or notes verbales from ministries, embassies, permanent missions to the United Nations or other Government offices or authorities, or through local United Nations offices, by the following 17 Parties participating in the Conference: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Malaysia, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Sudan, Sweden and Yemen.

9. The President proposed that the Bureau should accept the credentials of all the representatives mentioned in the memorandum of the Executive Secretary, on the understanding that formal credentials for the representatives referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above would be communicated to the Permanent Secretariat as soon as possible. The Bureau accepted the proposal and agreed to submit the present report to the Conference.

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Resolution 1/COP.1

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Italy

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997 at the invitation of the Government of Italy,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Italy for having made it possible for the Conference of the Parties to be held in Rome and for the excellent facilities so graciously placed at its disposal;

2. Requests the Government of Italy to convey to the city of Rome and to the people of Italy the gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

Resolution 2/COP.1

Expression of appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Conference of the Parties,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the FAO for having made it possible for the Conference of the Parties to be held at its headquarters and for the excellent facilities, staff and services provided;

2. Encourages FAO to strengthen its current excellent cooperation with and assistance to the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention so as to facilitate the implementation of the Convention.